

# The China Mail.

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HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1882.

日三十月正年壬午

PRICE, \$24 PER ANNUM.

## AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

**LONDON**—F. ALGAR, 11 & 12, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E. C. GEORGE STREET & Co., 30, Cornhill. GEORGE & GORDON, Leadenhall Street, E. C. BATES HERBY & Co., 37, Walbrook, E. C. SAMUEL DEASON & Co., 150 & 154, Leadenhall Street.

**PARIS AND EUROPE**—GAILLIER & PRINCE, 36, Rue Lafayette, Paris.

**NEW YORK**—ANDREW WISE, 133, Nassau Street.

**AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND**—GORDON & GORDON, Melbourne and Sydney.

**SAN FRANCISCO** and American Ports generally—DEAN & BLACK, San Francisco.

**SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.**—SAYLE & Co., Square, Singapore. C. HEINZ & Co., Manila.

**CHINA**—Messrs A. A. DE MELO & Co., Square, Singapore. CAMPBELL & Co., Amoy. WILSON, NICHOLS & Co., Foochow. HEDGES & Co., Shanghai. LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., and KELLY & WAHAI, Yokohama, LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

## Banks.

### HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, 5,000,000 Dollars.  
RESERVE FUND, 2,100,000 Dollars.

#### COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman—H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq.  
Deputy Chairman—H. DE C. FORBES, Esq.  
H. HOPKIN, Esq.  
H. F. JOHNSON, Esq.  
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W. R. REYNOLDS, Esq.  
F. D. SASSOON, Esq.  
M. E. SASSOON, Esq.  
W. S. YOUNG, Esq.

#### CHIEF MANAGER.

Hongkong, THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.  
MANAGER.  
Shanghai, EWEN CAMERON, Esq.  
LONDON BANKERS—London and County Bank.

#### HONGKONG.

##### INTEREST ALLOWED.

ON Current Deposit Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

For Fixed Deposits—  
For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.  
" 6 " 4 " " " "  
" 12 " 5 " " " "

##### LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts, granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.

Offices of the Corporation,  
No. 1, Queen's Road-East.

Hongkong, February 15, 1882.

### COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

(Incorporated 7th & 18th March, 1848.)

RECOGNISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF 30th April, 1862.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID-UP, £3,200,000.  
RESERVE FUND, £200,000.

HEAD OFFICE—14, Rue Bignon, PARIS.

#### AGENCIES and BRANCHES at:

LONDON, BOURBON, SAN FRANCISCO, MALACCA, BOMBAY, HONGKONG, LYONS, CALCUTTA, HANKOW, SHANGHAI, FOOCHOW, MELBOURNE, and SYDNEY.

#### LONDON BANKERS:

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE UNION BANK OF LONDON.

Messrs C. J. HAMBRO & SON.

The Hongkong Agency receives Fixed Deposits on Terms to be ascertained on application, grants Drafts and Credits on all parts of the World, and transacts every description of Banking Exchange Business.

F. COCHINARD, Agent, Hongkong.

Hongkong, February 9, 1882.

### ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

PAID-UP CAPITAL, £1,500,000.

#### RATES OF INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.

At 3 months' notice 3 1/2 per Annum.  
" 6 " " 4 " " "  
" 12 " " 5 " " "

Current Accounts kept on Terms which may be learnt on application.

GEO. O. SCOTT, Manager.

Oriental Bank Corporation, Hongkong, September 4, 1879.

## Notices of Firms.

### NOTICE.

WE have been appointed Agents for the MITSU BUISAN KAISHA, of Tokio, at this Port.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.

Hongkong, February 1, 1882.

### NOTICE.

THE INTEREST and RESPONSIBILITY of Mr. W. KERFOOT HUGHES in our Firm CEASED on the 31st December last. The Business will be carried on, under the same Style, by Mr. WILLIAM LEGGIE and Mr. EDWARD JONES HUGHES.

HUGHES & LEGGIE.

Hongkong, January 14, 1882.

## Auctions.

### PUBLIC AUCTION.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. have received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, without Reserve, on

### FRIDAY,

the 3rd March, 1882, at 4 o'clock p.m., at the FOUNTAIN, opposite the City Hall, The following

#### RACING PONIES,—

"Wild Race," winner of Derby 1881.  
"Red Star," winner of Mafco's Race.  
"Wild Sell," there can be no question about this being a 1st class animal.  
"Lane Duck," still a griffin and possible winner of Derby 1883.

"Bohemian."  
"Barbarian."  
"Wild Surf."  
"White Stockings."  
"Phantom."

TERMS.—As usual.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., Auctioneers.

Hongkong, March 1, 1882.

## To Let.

### TO LET.

No. 4, Old Bailey Street.

"KORRALEMAN," No. 10, ALBANY ROAD.

OFFICES in No. 13, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Apply to

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.

Hongkong, February 15, 1882.

## For Sale.

### FOR SALE—JUST RECEIVED.

BEST INDIAN SILVER JEWELLERY of various kinds.

INDIAN CASHMERE SHAWLS.

SMOKING CAPS.

RUMPOOREE CHUDERS; and

CASHMERE CLOTH, assorted, for Ladies' Dresses.

AT MODERATE PRICES.

N. M. KHAMISA, 8 and 10, Peel Street.

Hongkong, January 28, 1882.

## FOR SALE.

Messrs W. & J. LOCKETT'S Celebrated BRANDS, REEFALL'S Export PALE ALE, and FINDLEY'S DUBLIN STOUT in Pints and Quarts.

Fine OLD PORT, in Cases of 1 dozen.

Also,

SILVER MOUSSEUX (VIN DE CHAMPAGNE), in Cases 2 dozen Pints and 1 dozen Quarts.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.

Hongkong, February 1, 1882.

## FOR SALE.

J. U. L. S. MUMM & Co.'s

Quarts, £17 per doz. Case.

Pints, £18 per doz.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

Hongkong, November 1, 1881.

## FOR SALE.

ABOUT 2,000 lbs. MILLER & RICHARD'S Extra-hard Metal BOURGEOIS TYPE, No. 15, (somewhat worn but in fairly good condition).

Apply to

OFFICE OF THIS PAPER.

Hongkong, July 22, 1881.

## JUST RECEIVED.

A Large Assortment of GENTLEMEN'S and LADIES' TENNIS SHOES.

GENTLEMEN'S WALKING BOOTS.

LADIES' SHOES.

And,

All Sorts of TENNIS TOOLS, as BALLS, RATS, &c., &c.

AT MODERATE PRICES.

N. M. KHAMISA, 8 and 10, Peel Street.

Hongkong, February 22, 1882.

## Intimations.

WINDSOR HOUSE, Nos. 18 and 19, BURN, YORKSHIRE.

THE above well-furnished Hotel commands a fine view of the Harbour and Shipping; and the building is surrounded by a large Garden, which makes this resort the most desirable in the East.

Charges—From £2.50 to £4 per day. Porter to land and ship Baggage.

SMITH, SWIFT & Co.

Yokohama, Japan, Sept. 1881.

## THE "FAR EAST."

THE HOUSE of 1878 WANTED.

Apply at this Office.

Hongkong, October 4, 1881.

## For Sale.

### LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

HAVE now a New and LARGE STOCK in the following Departments, viz.—

HOUSEHOLD STORES.

CROSETT & BLACKWELL, and MOIR'S, HUNTLEY & PALMER'S, and AMERICAN BISCUITS, and CRACKNELS, SCOTCH OAT CAKES, MACKENZIE'S ALBERT BISCUITS; NEW MUSCATEL RAISINS and JOHNSON ALMONDS, ELVAS PLUMS, DESSERT FRUIT in Syrup, ROYAL and BRANDY; STILTON, GORGONZOLA, FINE-APPLE and ALBERT CHEESE; NEW COSAQUES and CONFECTIONERY.

BRANDIES—COGNAC, EXHAW'S, and HENNESSY'S.

WHISKIES—BOURBON, BULLDOG, LADE, KINAHAN'S LL, and L. C. & Co.'s SPECIAL BLEND, RED HEART RUM, SQUARE FACE and OLD TOM.

CHAMPAGNE—KOHENSTAM, RUINART, CLARET—MEDOC, HAUT TALENCE, LAURE.

Outfitting Department—GENTLEMEN'S HOSIERY, in Medium and STOUT MERING, SCOTCH WOOL and CASHMERE; SHIRTS in French Point, WHITE OXFORD, and LONG CLOTH; SCARVES, TIES, COLLARS, and HANDKERCHIEFS; FOWNES CHEVRETT and CAPE, DRIVING GLOVES; BRACES.

UMBRELLAS, TRAVELLING RUGS and CARPS, FELT and CORK HATS in New Shapes; WHITE and AMERICAN BLANKETS; OVERLAND, STEEL, and LADIES' DRESS TRUNKS, PORTMANTEAUX, VALISES, BOOT CASES, HAND BAGS, &c.

HORSE GEAR—SADDLES, SPURS, STIRRUPS, CLOTHING, BRIDLES, HARNESS, WHIPS, &c.

SHIRTS and BALLS, TENNIS RATS—in Single, Double, and TRIPLE GUT, by FRANKLIN, JEFFERIES, and AYRES.

WHITAKER'S ALMANACS to arrive at Office.

Hongkong, February 7, 1882.

## Intimations.

NETHERLANDS INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

ON and after the 1st Proximo, the Company's STEAMERS will run Monthly between AMOY, HONGKONG, and BATAVIA direct, taking Cargo at through rates for JAVA PORTS.

The STEAMERS will not for the present call at MACAO, MANILA or MACASSAR.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, March 1, 1882.

## THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

### NOTICE.

THE First Annual General Meeting of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Office of the Company, No. 7, Queen's Road at 12 o'clock on MONDAY, the 6th day of March next, to receive a Statement of the Accounts of the Company to 31st December, 1881, and the Report of the General Managers.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th to the 17th Current, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, February 21, 1882.

## CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

### NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Ordinary Annual General Meeting of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Office of the General Agents, on FRIDAY, the 17th day of March current, at Three o'clock p.m., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Agents, together with a Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1881.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th to the 17th Current, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Agents.

Hongkong, March 1, 1882.

## HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

### NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND of 4%, being 85 per SHARE, for the Six Months ending 31st December last, declared at Today's Ordinary Half-Yearly Meeting, will be payable at the HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, on TO-MORROW, the 2nd Inst., and Shareholders are requested to apply for Dividend Warrants at the Company's Offices, No. 14, Praya Central, Hongkong.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

R. COOKE, Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, March 1, 1882.

## HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

### NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

CONTRIBUTING SHAREHOLDERS are requested to send in a Statement of BUSINESS Contributed during the Half-Year ended 31st December, 1881, on or before March 31st, on which date the Accounts will be Closed.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

R. COOKE, Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, March 1, 1882.

## NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

ON and after the 1st March, 1882, the OFFICES of the MITSU BUISAN KAISHA STEAMSHIP COMPANY will be REMOVED to the GROUND FLOOR of Messrs Russell & Co.'s Premises, Praya Central.

H. J. H. TRIPP, Agent.

Hongkong, February 23, 1882.

## TOK KEE, COAL MERCHANT.

33, WING HING LANE, HONGKONG.

KEEPS on hand for Sale all Kinds of STRAITS COAL of the best quality, at moderate rates; also has always Powerful STEAM LAUNCHES for Hire at a reasonable Charge, either for special Purposes, Excursions, or Towing.

Hongkong, January 13, 1882.

## Intimations.

1,557 tons, the building of which has just been completed at Aberdeen; and by the "Posang" of about the same tonnage, now approaching completion at Glasgow. These boats have been specially built for the most Southern Coast Trade that has Hongkong for its centre, and in connection with which the Vendors have already attained an important position.

The China and Calcutta branch of the "China Service" will take the place of the Steamers (their own or chartered) which Messrs JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. have run for upwards of twenty-six years, and which have carried the mails between China, the Straits Settlements, and India. This line is a valuable one, and is considered of growing importance, owing to the increasing passenger traffic and trade of China with the Straits Settlements and India. It is proposed to build two large and powerful Steamers, specially adapted to this branch of the trade, to take the place of the chartered Vessels at present employed in the service, and the Directors expect that to accomplish this, and to make the desirable additions to the Coast and River Services, an outlay of £180,000 will be amply sufficient.

The earnings of the CHINA COAST STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY's fleet during last year, the results obtained by Chartering Steamers on the line as provided with tonnage, and the working of the Yangtze River Service, show good realised profits, and it may be confidently anticipated with the substitution of European Vessels for the native Junk that is taking place on the Coast of China, and the general expansion of the Carrying Trade in the East Sea, and on the Rivers of China, that the Company will find ample scope for profitable enterprise. The business, though still capable of great development, has the benefit of being a going concern, and active service is proceeding on all the lines indicated, bringing in a revenue out of which the Directors reasonably expect to pay Dividends, besides forming a Reserve Fund for Depreciation in the value of Steamers.

The following is the only Agreement that has been entered into by or on behalf of the Company—

1. An Agreement dated 30th November, 1881, between WILLIAM KESWICK, Esq., on behalf of the CHINA COAST STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, the YANGTZE STEAMER COMPANY, and JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., respective Vendors of the concerns disposed of, of the one part, and JOHN LOBE, Esq., on behalf of the Company, of the other part, with a Memorandum endorsed thereon dated 30th December, 1881, between WILLIAM KESWICK, Esq., on behalf of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., of the one part, and JOHN LOBE, Esq., on behalf of the Company, of the other part.

Copies of the above Agreement and Memorandum, of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the above-mentioned Valuation, can be inspected by intending Subscribers, at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company, Messrs JAMES MACANDREW & Co., 24, Abchurch Lane, London, of Messrs MATHESON & Co., 31, Lombard Street, London, of Messrs JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., 31, Lombard Street, London, of Messrs JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., 31, Lombard Street, London, of Messrs JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., 31, Lombard Street, London.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned, and if a smaller number of Shares be allotted than applied for, the surplus of the deposit will be applicable to the payment of the amount due on allotment. It is hereby put to the notice of the allotment will be liable to cancellation, and the payments previously made to forfeiture.

Application for Shares must be made in the form accompanying this Prospectus, and forms may be had at the Office of the Company, JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., 31, Lombard Street, London, of Messrs JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., 31, Lombard Street, London, of Messrs JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., 31, Lombard Street, London.

#### SCHEDULE OF STEAMERS.

Appn.	550 tons	The property of the
Sin Nanning, 1,166	"	CHINA COAST
Taipei, 1,086	"	STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
Europe, 814	"	"
El Dorado, 1,180	"	"
Fedeli, 1,160	"	"
Kangaroo, 980	"	The property of the
Fukuoka, 980	"	YANGTZE STEAMER CO.
Taipei, 1,323	"	"

Total Tons, 9,340 Register.

Sin Nanning, 1,166 tons

Fukuoka, 1,357 "

(building), 1,550 "

about, MESSRS JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

London, 4th January, 1882.

WITH reference to the above the undersigned are prepared to receive at their Offices in HONGKONG and SHANGHAI up to and on the 14th of March next, and in YOKOHAMA to the 21st of March, applications for a limited number of shares which have been reserved for China and Japan.

Applications from the China Coast ports will be received in HONGKONG and SHANGHAI until the 21st March.

The deposit of one share with each application will be five dollars, and for the convenience of Shareholders the calls named in the prospectus, aggregating with the Deposit £7 per share, will be received in currency by one payment to be made on or before the 31st March at the current rate of Exchange for Demand Bank Bills on London, to be fixed in the letter of Allotment.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Agreement referred to in the prospectus may be inspected by intending subscribers at the Offices of the undersigned from whom forms of application for shares may be obtained.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 27th February, 1882.

## WANTED.

COMPETENT SURGEONS for STRAITS and SAILING SHIPS, hence to Victoria, Portland and San Francisco.

For Particulars, apply to

RUSSELL & Co.

Hongkong, February 22, 1882.

## WANTED.

A Managing PARTNER for an Old Established WINE and SPIRIT MERCHANT'S BUSINESS, with ASSORTED WATERS, MANUFACTORY and GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS combined.

For full Particulars, apply to

"A. B. C."

o/o OFFICE of THIS PAPER.

Hongkong, January 26, 1882.

## Shipping.

### Steamers.

FOR HONGKONG, PAKHOI AND HAIPHONG.

The Steamship "Canopus,"







...is at once the most as well as most painstaking and obliging. Head of the Post Office Department, the Colony has ever seen. The desire which he has ever evinced, not only to anticipate the requirements of the public, but to systematize and popularize all forms of knowledge connected with the Post Office, has inaugurated a new era in postal business here. He goes home for a short holiday, and will be succeeded temporarily by Mr. S. Barff, Assistant Postmaster-General.

The annual meeting of the members of Union Church was held this afternoon, under the presidency of the Rev. J. Colville, the Pastor. The annual report and Treasurer's accounts were read and approved. It is satisfactory to know from the accounts that a larger balance has been carried forward this year than had been done for some years past. Attention was directed to the improved attendance at the church services, but it was thought the attendance should be still larger, considering the number of young men in the colony. Mention was made of the great improvement which had been effected in the psalmody of the church. The Sunday School is in a flourishing condition, and is attended by European children, soldiers from the Garrison, and by a number of English-speaking Chinese. Before the meeting separated a proposal was made to start an endowment scheme by the aid of friends at home. The proposition was favourably received, and a gentleman was deputed to take charge of the scheme at home.

#### THE FIRE IN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

The adjourned inquiry into the cause of the late fire in Queen's Road West was resumed at the Magistracy to-day.

Mr. Wotton appeared to-day to watch the case on behalf of the Hongkong Fire, the Alliance Fire, the Transatlantic Fire, and the China Fire, Insurance Companies.

Mr. Wotton called the attention of the Coroner to the fact that there were some wooden structures on the roof at the back of the neighbouring house where the fire occurred, and he thought this was contrary to ordinance, and thought it might be as well to enquire into what steps had been taken to see whether this was not the cause of fire in other cases.

Mr. Wotton said that he was only dealing with the cause of the fire, and he had nothing to do with anything incidentally connected with it.

Mr. Wotton said that if during the investigation the Coroner found that there had been wooden structures of this description on the roofs of the neighbouring houses, and also found that they were contrary to ordinance, then it might be as well to enquire into the matter, as the same thing might be the cause of fire in other cases.

The Coroner said that with the cause of the fire he had nothing to do except incidentally with the death of the man Anderson, and it was not his duty nor his province to go minutely into the origin of the fire, except so far as circumstances were divulged which might have some bearing on the case. And in this case it so happened that the reason he had to extend the enquiry was that the Inspector had made a visit to the place and made some observations, and that he had thought at the same time he might as well examine the parties who were in the house at the time the fire broke out.

Some further remarks followed, in which the Coroner said that he could not detain the jury as it was not their business to enquire into these matters, and in which Mr. Wotton pointed out to the jury the whole of the evidence, and that he would refer to the Coroner to the ordinance dealing with these matters. Mr. Wotton also stated that there were some gentlemen present who would be able to give material evidence with regard to this. The Coroner, however, would not consent to go into the matter at this stage.

Inspector Fleming said he went into the house No. 146 immediately before Inspector Thomson. He examined the whole of the first floor and saw no fire except at the smoke hole, which was on a level with the first floor. There was a large bundle of rattans lying across the smoke hole, and there were just commencing to burn in the centre of the one side of the bundle. Across one end of the bundle was a piece of wood, which at that time had not caught fire. By its appearance he thought there had never been occupied as the walls were quite clean. The bundle of rattans was weighed in, lengthways, between the two walls of the smoke hole, which was about four or five feet square. There was no sign of fire in the ceiling of the first floor. The street door was shut but unfastened, and the house entirely empty. The shop below appeared to have been cleared of the property. A cash box, the contents of which were empty, was found in the fire room.

He arrived at the fire room ten or fifteen minutes after the alarm had been given. He saw smoke issuing from the second floor from Queen's Road. There was no fire on the ground floor. He then went down; went up the ladder again to try and enter the verandah of No. 150, but found it boarded up, with three bamboo blinds covering the boards. He ordered two firemen to take the boarding down, which was done. He did not observe any rattans in this verandah except some which had bulged through the window when the floors fell in. He did not see how it was possible for the owners to have looked down on the street, as they said they had done, when the fire was raised. He said that many verandahs were barricaded in the same manner. He noticed nothing that could give him any clue as to how the fire originated.

Hung Luk Shing, one of the owners, said when he heard the cry of fire he went into the verandah, and saw the people in a state of excitement. He could see over the railing. He pulled the blinds up slightly to allow him to have a view of the street. He thought the fire had broken out on the top of the second floor. He only entered the salesman's room, or the stock house, sufficiently to allow of him looking up. He

thought the alarm was given first shortly after six o'clock.

After hearing Inspector Thomson's evidence read over to him he said he believed the rattans had fallen from the floor above, but could not say how the fire began. He did not know how the wood got there, but he noticed as he left that some sparks of fire were there. It might have dropped down, but he did not know how it got there.

Inspector Whitehead's evidence was then read, and when asked to explain the difference between that evidence and his own, where the Inspector says there were boards covering the front of the verandah, and his own statement that there were only bamboo blinds, he, the witness, said the Inspector must have made a mistake, as there were only boards up to the railings.

Inspector Whitehead, recalled, positively swore that the verandah was as he described it, and was of opinion that he would be able to find the firemen who knew the case, and that he was sure of it.

Hung Luk Shing, on the Coroner mentioning that his policy might be affected unless he was able to clear up these matters, then stated that he forgot to mention that there was a narrow board running up each side.

Inspector Whitehead stated that he pulled the screen down from the end nearest to 152 and saw the whole verandah boarded up. The centre boards being nailed in a frame, although they might have been a sliding portion.

The owner said that the Inspector had made a mistake, as there were only boards at each end about five or six inches wide.

On the 11th, after admitting that his previous statements were correct, and he went and looked over the verandah along with the other partner on hearing the cry of fire, and saw the people below, considering the exact position of the verandah, he said there were three boards on the verandah and these were raised when looking out. The verandah was open from end to end except for the bamboo blinds. There were some boards placed before that part of the verandah below the railing, but there were no boards there, and he said that he was not aware of that.

Inspector Whitehead's evidence, said that the Inspector must have made a mistake as there were no boards except before the railings. He was also unable to account for the discrepancy between his own evidence and that of Inspector Thomson's.

The first partner said that the explanation of the hearing might be that the next afternoon, and he understood that his verandah was to have called him, and he had put himself to great inconvenience in coming there.

The Coroner then read over the evidence of Sergeant Rao and others who had stated in evidence that there was nothing approaching an explosion so far as they knew. He said he did not believe that anything would be gained by reopening the case, as the previous evidence was so explicit, and because that he knew that the evidence of some of the gentlemen present would give would be conflicting. Even if an explosion was proved he thought it would be difficult to say whether the explosion caused the death of the deceased or not, and he would rather incline to advise the jury to return an open verdict, such as that the deceased was found dead in the debris in the house while he was engaged putting out the fire.

It was clear that the fire was the primary cause of the death of the deceased. He expressed his regret that Mr. Coxon had been detained all the afternoon, and said he was not aware until then that he was present for any other purpose than that of watching a case in which he imagined that Mr. Coxon was interested.

Mr. Coxon thanked the Coroner for his expression of regret and thought that it was right to say that it would be reopening the case to a certain extent if Mr. Coxon's evidence was taken, as it was diametrically opposed to that which had been already given.

Mr. Wotton said the cause of the fire had not yet been ascertained, and he proposed that the material evidence be taken of the witnesses present, such as Mr. Hughes. The Coroner said that if he wished any more witnesses he would subpoena them. He then adjourned the enquiry until Saturday next, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Wotton said that he would ask the gentlemen present to appear again on Saturday.

The Coroner said he could invite them to be present, but it would be at his, Mr. Wotton's own request.

NOTES FROM PEKING.

(By a Correspondent.)

Mr. E. C. Baber goes home in Spring. Mr. Spence comes to take his place. Mr. Warray also leaves for some part early, and Mr. Carles will take his place. Mr. Hart gave a grand dress ball on February 2nd, which was a great success. The gentlemen's costumes were particularly grand and brilliant. Mrs. Hart leaves for Europe in March; after which the Inspector-General is expected to take a run of the ports. The winter remains excessively mild, and the river is expected to open soon. Now with the telegraph working, the steamers need not fear detention, and are likely to come sooner. There is plenty of merchandise waiting for them to take away. Commodore Scheffelt, and Messrs. Meany, Dunn, and Maynard (French), are all here on a visit. There are frequent conferences between the foreign diplomats, and frequent visits by them to the Foreign Office. It would not be strange if much of this has to do with opium, the duty and letin. You may not get your opium syndicate at Hongkong after all. There seems to be a good deal of suspicion about its working and the general effect it will have, and the Viceroy Li, who rather

favoured it at first, is now, it is reported, against the scheme. Whatever is done, this seems certain—that the Chinese are determined to raise the duty, and make one more effort to free themselves from what they deem the curse of opium. Once the foreign drug is stopped, they will make short work of the native—but no Government could or would suppress the latter, so long as its only result would be to stimulate the foreign article, and cause still more bullion to flow out of the country. The drug is still morally a contraband article. Too and Li are both at one on this question, but the latter will be allowed to work out the problem on his own lines. Sir Rutherford Alcock has given in the *Nineteenth Century* a very brief, poor and old-fashioned article on "Opium and Common Sense." We know the history of the trade—the irregularities and the calamities, and the heroic efforts and sacrifices of the Chinese too well to be caught by such an article. His statements, too, about the native opium are quite unreliable, and lack evidence, and his belief that it is not a curse, but a blessing to the many will not be held by any one who knows anything of the subject. His off-putting argument about each country having some beverage or stimulant would have some weight if the Chinese when they took to opium had abandoned samshoo, tobacco, betel-nut, etc., but instead they have kept all these and superadded opium upon them. It is not at all a case of one stimulant supplanting another. His argument therefore contains this serious flaw. You seem to be a little trouble about your Savage. I hope you will be able to remove one evil without reproducing another and a worse one. Whatever you do, do not be satisfied with the mere removal of the nuisance from one man's door to that of another, try and disinfect it by artificial or natural means, and so remove the danger; and seeing the opium farm may be in some danger—try the sewage one in its place—the transition from "earth" to "foreign dirt," to sewage is not very great.

THE CHINESE BANQUET.

(By a Contributor.)

The necessity has once again devolved upon us to assume the rôle of critic in reference to Sir John Pope Hennessy's public speaking, and other talking connected with the same. As the exponent of the Chinese community, all that the Hon. Mr. Choy could bring forward in favor of acts and measures to support their view of a public "benefactor" was evidently adduced. That over which our fellow-townsmen are making so much ado has simply arisen—they appear to forget—from the unavoidable necessity imposed in the discharge of highly paid duties. The Hon. gentleman considers His Excellency to be a great statesman, from which assertion we beg to disagree, as, in our opinion, clever and unscrupulous would be the more appropriate adjectives. However, to proceed seriatim—Mr. Choy would be all the better for a little further acquaintance with political geography before he undertakes to institute a comparison between Governor Hennessy's administration of Labuan, and the supposed successes achieved there with those said to have been repeated here. We may inform our readers that Labuan is an ex-Indian convict Settlement, with a population of between 4,000 and 5,000 inhabitants. Its revenue and expenditure average about \$35,000 each, per annum;—while the annual actual collected in Hongkong last year was \$1,300,428, and disbursements \$2,500,000. The ridiculous aspect of the comparison would be more apparent if we were to enter into other details—such, for instance, as Trade Returns, those of Labuan being a little over £200,000, while those of Hongkong have been set down by Governor Hennessy himself as over a hundred millions sterling! It is quite possible that Sir John Pope Hennessy gave satisfaction in the Colony the Government of which is now actually going wrong; and it is also probable that the magnitude of the interests involved in the Government of Hongkong were too great for His Excellency's narrow views and previous experience. This cannot, however, really be said, for on this occasion the Hon. gentleman's administration of the Colony failed of his Administration of the Colony; for we find him, (on this same occasion) selfishly alive to his own interests, and actually making capital out of a village (for Labuan is little else), in order to ingratiate himself with the Chinese community in his farewell address. But of this more anon. To revert to the Hon. Mr. Choy's remarks, we cannot see how the Hon. gentleman can be held even when a restriction as to certain limitations in the interest of European and other sections of the population is not enforced upon the Chinese. It is not the fact of the concession to Celestial prejudice that we are desirous of drawing attention to, but the *principle* upon which sometimes we see a restriction placed under the impulse of interested motives. Regarding the segregation of the Foreign, from the Chinese Community, the history of the *Sinai Settlement* seems very clearly to show the necessity for such a separation. Further, it is nothing unusual in British India, where the advantage of taking shelter, according to Sir John Pope Hennessy, are unquestionable, to preclude notices from holding allotments within certain limits set apart for special purposes. On the contrary, there is much in favor of the practice of thus separating people of dissimilar habits, and divergent views, whose interests in some matters of some importance might clash, or whose contiguity would be highly inconvenient to either or both parties on various other grounds. Furthermore, to speak plainly, while there are many notable exceptions, Asiatics generally and Chinese particularly are made of such combustible material that an explosion is always imminent in new countries, so as to render separation on the part of Europeans and others desirable. Anyhow, with a strong Military and Naval force, and a formidable array of Police, His Excellency, as usual far-seeing, might well have dispensed with, and taken credit for, the removal of the restriction. The importance of the concession, however, is not the point at issue, and is altogether ignored. In the matter of English education, we again find much ado over nothing. The honorable gentleman must have been really hard up for reasons when he had to fall back upon the impetus given by our worthy Chief to English Provisional Education, and there probably heard that the best English is spoken in Dublin, was either perpetrating a joke, or taking undue advantage of the Governor's little human weakness. For he could not but know that there are brogues in the old country restricted to certain localities, which, while very pleasant to seniors, are far from approaching other individuals, and to what constitutes the pure, singular language! The crime

of kidnapping is an acknowledgment of national weakness, which reflects discreditably on Chinese communities here and elsewhere; and its prevalence, despite the exertions of the authorities, and the meritorious efforts of a few, shows pretty clearly the moral antecedents of those who claim to be the great bulk of the population. It certainly throws serious doubt on the advisability of consulting Celestial opinion to the extent desired in this *crimen colosseum*. Regarding their voice in the making of laws and having their say in other matters, surely they do not look for greater privileges in this respect than their countrymen in the Straits, who are twice as numerous and nearly twice as long under British rule, receive, or expect higher representation in the Legislative Assembly? India is out of comparison—after the lapse of centuries of enlightened administration, its four universities, hundreds of colleges, and thousands of students, have not yet been able to elect a single member to the Council of the Government, and its Civil Service the best, by far, of any in the world. This brief digression has been unavoidable from Sir John Pope Hennessy's far-fetched analogies; but with his statements we purpose dealing hereafter.

The means of doing so only but the more to add before concluding with our learned friend, Mr. Ng Choy. With regard to the stopping of those Chinese who ran away—thereby giving cause for suspicion in a panic, or, perhaps, a critical period for public safety—instead of trying to assist in suppressing a fire, we have our doubts on the wisdom of endeavoring to do so, or of period of endeavoring to do so, or of even although the flooding power was absolutely a dead letter. Every individual member of a community has certain obligations in all civilized communities to the necessity for the exercise of which could not be more obviously required than in the case of the Chinese, who are so much to be feared for their calamity. There is nothing new in people being pressed for service under sudden exigencies. The British Burmah Embarkment Bill recently passed by the Council of India is a case in point of enforced labour. 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